News Release

CHURCHILL DOWNS

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TOM'S D'ETAT JUST MISSES TRACK RECORD IN BRILLIANT STEPHEN FOSTER EFFORT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, June 27, 2020) – **Tom's d'Etat** delivered a brilliant performance in Saturday's 39th running of the $500,000 Stephen Foster presented by Coca-Cola (Grade II) at Churchill Downs as the 7-year-old horse collected his fourth consecutive stakes win while defeating **By My Standards** by 4 ¼ lengths and clocking 1 1/8 miles in 1:47.30 – just .02 off **Victory Gallop**'s 1999 track and stakes record.

Trained by **Al Stall Jr.** and owned by **Gayle Benson**'s **G M B Racing** and named for her late husband **Tom Benson** of **New Orleans Saints** and **New Orleans Pelicans** fame, Tom's d'Etat sat just behind **Pirate's Punch**, who led the field of eight older horses through fractions of :23.89 and :48.13. Midway around the far turn with three furlongs to run, jockey **Miguel Mena** asked Tom's d'Etat to poke his head in front. Under a hand ride, Tom's d'Etat drew off in the stretch and was utterly superior as By My Standards attempted to close ground.

"I knew he was a lot of fun to ride him in the morning but didn't realize how much fun he was in the afternoon," said Mena, who was given an opportunity to ride Tom's d'Etat when regular jockey **Joel Rosario** opted to ride champion **Uni (GB)** to a third-place finish in the $250,000 Just a Game (GI) at Belmont Park in New York. "I owe everything to Al for giving me the opportunity to ride such an impressive horse. He was going along so easy and I just asked him for his attention a little bit at the top of the lane and I didn't even have to really step on the gas."

The final time for Tom's d'Etat, last fall's Grade I Clark winner, was :01.69 faster than impressive 8 ¼-length Fleur de Lis (GII) winner **Midnight Bisou**, the 2019 Champion Older Dirt Female.

The lofty $300,700 first prize lifted the classy bay Kentucky-bred's earnings to $1,627,272 from a record of 11-2-1 in 18 starts. Also, the victory in the Stephen Foster, a Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In Classic Division" race, earned Tom's d'Etat a guaranteed spot in the starting gate for the $7 million Longines Classic (GI), which is scheduled for Nov. 7 at Keeneland. Also, his connections will have all Breeders' Cup pre-entry and entry fees covered and receive a travel award up to $10,000.

Tom's d'Etat rewarded his backers with mutuels of $4.60, $2.80 and $2.60 as the 6-5 betting choice. By My Standards, with **Corey Lanerie** aboard, returned $3.20 and $3 as the 9-5 second choice. **Silver Dust**, another 2 ¾ lengths back in third under **Adam Beschizza**, paid $6.40 to show.

Multiplier, **Owendale**, **Fearless**, Pirate's Punch and **Alkhaatam** completed the order of finish.

Tom's d'Etat has won five of his last six starts, including four stakes wins in a row. Previously he won the $200,000 Fayette (GII) at Keeneland on Oct. 29; the $600,000 Clark presented by Norton Healthcare (GI) at Churchill Downs on Nov. 29; and $150,000 Oaklawn Mile at Oaklawn Park on April 11.

"We knew coming into this race he was a fresh horse but ran so well fresh in the past," said Stall, who also won the Stephen Foster in 2010 with **Blame**, who'd go on to defeat Horse of the Year **Zenyatta** in the Breeders' Cup Classic. "This will set him up to be in good shape for the rest of the year. I think he'll benefit a lot from this race but we've sort of been waiting for this horse to get into form with the breaks in his races but he's finally got there. That was a very impressive performance today."

Tom's d'Etat, third in last year's Stephen Foster behind **Seeking the Soul** and **Quip**, joined **Honor Medal** (1988) as the oldest Stephen Foster winner at age 7.

Tom's d'Etat is a son of Smart Strike out of the Giant's Causeway mare Julia Tuttle and was bred by **SF Bloodstock LLC**.

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Saturday's handle on the 11-race race card totaled $13,801,111, which is the fifth-largest betting total for racing at Churchill Downs on days that did not include the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks or Breeders' Cup.

Sunday's nine-race closing day card includes a $48,629 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot (Races 4-9) and a $13,826 carryover in the $1 Super Hi-5 on the final race of the day. Because it's closing day of the 27-day meet, there will be a mandatory payout in both pools.

First post Sunday is 1 p.m. ET.

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CHAMPION MIDNIGHT BISOU POWERS HOME IN GRADE II FLEUR DE LIS

Midnight Bisou, the 2019 Champion Older Dirt Female, proved her class was undeniable when she powered past speedy pacesetter and last year's Longines Kentucky Oaks winner **Serengeti Empress** leaving the far turn and easily drew away in the stretch for a widening 8 ¼-length win over **Motion Emotion** in Saturday's 45th running of the $200,000 Fleur de Lis presented by Coca-Cola (Grade II) at Churchill Downs.

Under the care of Hall of Fame duo trainer **Steve Asmussen** and jockey **Mike Smith**, Midnight Bisou ran 1 1/8 miles over a fast track in 1:48.99. By winning the Fleur de Lis, she secured a "Win and You're In" berth to the $2 million Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff (GI) on Nov. 7 at Keeneland. But will she run in the Distaff or Breeders' Cup Classic against open company?

Earlier this year on Feb. 29, Midnight Bisou was beaten just three-quarters of a length by **Maximum Security** in the inaugural $20 million Saudi Cup, which featured a field of 14 at 1 1/8 miles in the world's richest horse race at King Abdulaziz Racecourse.

"She's a really special mare," said Asmussen, who won four races Saturday to take a 746-to-742 lead over **Dale Romans** for most wins by a trainer at Churchill Downs in the track's storied history. "To come back, in that sort of style, is just tremendous. She has such an amazing talent and such a great relationship with Mike. She beat a wonderful-looking group of mares. We have nothing but respect towards them."

Serengeti Empress, as expected, dictated the pace in the field of seven fillies and mares through swift fractions of :23.18, :46.15 and 1:09.74. She widened to a three-length advantage nearing the far turn but champion Midnight Bisou had her in sight throughout. The winner began to move near the 5/16-pole with a three-wide move, easily took command at the top of the lane and drew off in the stretch under a complete hand ride.

"She's just an amazing mare," Smith said. "I actually had took the lead a little before I wanted to. We were planning on laying a little bit closer but the way Serengeti Empress was winging it on the front end we were a little further back. She's just incredibly special."

Midnight Bisou, the 1-2 favorite in the wagering, paid $3, $2.60 and $2.10. **Motion Emotion**, with jockey **Julien Leparoux** aboard, paid $10.20 and $5.20. **Another Broad**, ridden by **John Velazquez**. finished third another 1 ½ lengths back of the runner-up and returned $5.

Serengeti Empress, **Red Dane** (**ITY**), **Go Google Yourself** and **Chocolate Kisses** rounded out the field.

Midnight Bisou improved her record to 21-13-5-3 boosting her career earnings of a whopping $7,371,520. She was bred in Kentucky by **Woodford Thoroughbreds**.

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HARVEY'S LIL GOIL FENDS OFF CHARGING CRYSTAL CLIFFS IN REGRET THRILLER

Harvey Clarke's homebred **Harvey's Lil Goil** was able to hold off the late surge of **Crystal Cliffs** (**FR**) to win Saturday's 51st running of the $100,000 Regret presented by TwinSpires.com (Grade III).

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Trained by Hall of Famer **Bill Mott** and ridden by **Martin Garcia**, Harvey's Lil Goil covered the 1 1/8 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course in 1:47.70.

In the early stages of the race, 17-1 longshot **Eve of War** took command of the field of 13 three-year-old fillies through opening fractions of :23.26 and :47.48. Harvey's Lil Goil tracked just off the pace of Eve of War on the outside of **In Good Spirits**. Harvey's Lil Goil took control of the lead at the head of the stretch following three-quarters of a mile in 1:11.80 but had to fend off the late charge of 6-5 favorite **Crystal Cliffs.** Just outside of the sixteenth-pole, Crystal Cliffs, under **John Velazquez**, dove to the inside rail past the tiring Eve of War but just missed getting to Harvey's Lil Goil by a head at the wire.

"I thought we were in a little bit of trouble when Johnny dove to the rail," Mott's assistant trainer **Kenny McCarthy** said. "However, when she got to her late in the stretch, she was able to fight back."

Harvey's Lil Goil rewarded her backers with payouts of $24.20, $7.60 and $5.40. Crystal Cliffs returned $3.20 and $3 and In Good Spirits paid $6.20.

With her victory in the Regret, Harvey's Lil Goil boosted her career earnings to $154,529. The homebred-daughter of American Pharoah sports an overall record of 5-3-0-0.

Pass the Plate, **Dominga**, **Stunning Sky**, **Hendy Woods**, **Micheline**, Eve of War, **Wexx**, **Edgee Angel**, **Witez** and **His Glory** completed the order of finish.

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2-YEAR-OLD CAZADERO IMPRESSES AGAIN IN GRADE III BASHFORD MANOR

Odds-on favorite **Cazadero** reaffirmed his dazzling 8 ¾-length debut win with another impressive performance at Churchill Downs in Saturday's 119th running of the $100,000 Bashford Manor presented by TwinSpires.com (Grade III), beating **County Final** by 4 ¾ lengths while running six furlongs in 1:09.73.

Sent to post as the 2-5 favorite in a field of seven 2-year-olds, **Stonestreet Stables'** homebred Cazadero tracked pacesetter County Final, who blitzed his way to the front through swift fractions of a :21.24 and :45.12. Off the turn, jockey **Ricardo Santana Jr.** shook the reins on Cazadero, who quickly drew even with the leader at the three-sixteenths pole and asserted himself in deep stretch for the comfortable victory.

"He is an incredibly nice horse," Santana said. "We sat in a really good spot today and was very comfortable. He kept finding his stride throughout the stretch."

It was the record sixth Bashord Manor win for Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen**, who previously won the juvenile event with **Lunarpal** (2004), **Kodiak Kowboy** (2007), **Kantharos** (2010), **Cinco Charlie** (2014) and **Sir Truebadour** (2018).

"He's been a very fast horse in his training and handled everything very well today," Asmussen said.

Cazadero's triumph was worth $60,760 and increased his bankroll to $106,160 with a perfect record in two starts. His debut win came May 29 at Churchill Downs in a five-furlong maiden special weight.

Cazadero is a 2-year-old son of 2007 Kentucky Derby winner **Street Sense** out of the Forest Wildcat mare Wild Gams. He was bred in Kentucky by his owner **Barbara Banke** of Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC.

"He was a later foal (born May 8, 2018) but we knew he was wickedly fast," Banke said. "He grew up on our farm and has showed that speed in his two starts."

Cazadero returned $2.80, $2.40 and $2.10. County Final, under **James Graham** at 16-1, paid $6.80 and $4.80 and finished 1 ¾ lengths in front of **Herd Immunity** who paid $4.60 to show under **Brian Hernandez Jr.** at 12-1.

Hulen, **Hyperfocus**, **Gatsby** and **Crown and Coke** completed the order of finish.

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First run in 1902, the Bashford Manor is named for the former Louisville Thoroughbred breeding and racing farm that dominated the American racing scene in the early 1900s. **George J. Long**, a wealthy foundry owner, purchased **Bashford Manor Farm** in 1887 and developed his Thoroughbred operation that provided him two Derby wins as an owner, 1892 (**Azra**) and 1906 (**Sir Huon**), and three as a breeder, 1892 (Azra), 1899 (**Manuel**) and 1906 (Sir Huon). In addition, Bashford Manor also won the Kentucky Oaks in 1894 (**Selika**) and 1915 (**Kathleen**). The original **Wilder family** owned Bashford Manor. The Wilders were direct descendants of **Lord Baltimore**, whose English home was also called Bashford Manor. Long died in 1930 and the farm was eventually sold in 1973 to make way for the development of a mall complex, fittingly named Bashford Manor, that formally closed in 2003.

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STEPHEN FOSTER QUOTES

Miguel Mena, jockey of TOM'S D'ETAT (winner): "I knew he was a lot of fun to ride him in the morning but didn't realize how much fun he was in the afternoon. I owe everything to Al for giving me the opportunity to ride such an impressive horse. He was going along so easy and I just asked him for his attention a little bit at the top of the lane and I didn't even have to really step on the gas."

Al Stall Jr., trainer of TOM'S D'ETAT (winner): "We knew coming into this race he was a fresh horse but ran so well fresh in the past. This will set him up to be in good shape for the rest of the year. I think he'll benefit a lot from this race but we've sort of been waiting for this horse to get into form with the breaks in his races but he's finally got there. That was a very impressive performance today."

Bret Calhoun, trainer of BY MY STANDARDS, SILVER DUST (runner-up and third): "I sort of knew when (Pirate's Punch) got out on the lead so easy we could be in trouble. They really didn't go fast at all and down the backside when the pace sort of slowed down we just weren't able to catch Tom's d'Etat. I'm very proud of both of our horses."

Tyler Gaffalione, jockey of MULTIPLIER (fourth): "For coming back as quickly as he did, he ran a fantastic race."

Brad Cox, trainer of OWENDALE (fifth): "Certainly the pace scenario didn't help our cause today."

Mike Smith, jockey of PIRATE'S PUNCH (seventh): "I had him where we wanted to be. I was a little surprised they came to us as early as they did."

Dan Peitz, trainer of ALKHAATAM (eighth): "He got in the right spot early but just wasn't able to hang with them today. We gave it a shot."

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FLEUR DE LIS QUOTES

Mike Smith, jockey of MIDNIGHT BISOU (winner): "She's just an amazing mare. I actually had took the lead a little before I wanted to. We were planning on laying a little bit closer but the way Serengeti Empress was winging it on the front end we were a little further back. She's just incredibly special."

Steve Asmussen, trainer of MIDNIGHT BISOU (winner): "She's a really special mare. To come back, in that sort of style, is just tremendous. She has such an amazing talent and such a great relationship with Mike. She beat a wonderful-looking group of mares. We have nothing but respect towards them."

Julien Leparoux, jockey of MOTION EMOTION (runner-up): "She ran a great race. The winner was much the best but I'm very proud how she ran."

Joe Talamo, jockey of SERENGETI EMPRESS (third): "We got the lead and she was just doing her thing. She was cruising up front and then at the quarter-pole she just didn't have that extra punch."

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REGRET QUOTES

Martin Garcia, jockey of HARVEY'S LIL GOIL (winner): "She was so impressive today. She tried and ran very hard late in the stretch. She was very determined."

Kenny McCarthy, assistant trainer of HARVEY'S LIL GOIL (winner): "I thought we were in a little bit of trouble when Johnny (Velazquez) dove to the rail. However, when she got to her late in the stretch, she was able to fight back. She's a very classy filly and now sports multiple stakes wins on both the dirt and the turf."

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BASHFORD MANOR QUOTES

Ricardo Santana Jr., jockey of CAZADERO (winner): "He is an incredibly nice horse. We sat in a really good spot today and was very comfortable. He kept finding his stride throughout the stretch."

Steve Asmussen, trainer of CAZADERO (winner): "He's been a very fast horse in his training and handled everything very well today."

Barbara Banke, owner of CAZADERO (winner): "He was a later foal but we knew he was wickedly fast. He grew up on our farm and has showed that speed in his two starts."

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